

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-10 (Canceled)

11. (Currently Amended) A header for a heat transfer apparatus comprising:

one or more slots for the insertion of a flat tube, said slots being created by stamping without an internal die or by internal high-pressure formation, wherein the ratio $(D/2s)$ of the tube's outside radius $(D/2)$ to the tube wall thickness (s) is less than 5, the ratio $(D/D1)$ of the tube outside diameter (D) outside of the slot areas to the tube transverse dimension $(D1)$ is between 1.02 and 1.5 in the slot areas, and a mechanical **weakening thinning** is provided at the places at which the slot or slots are to be made.

12. (Previously Presented) A header according to claim 11, wherein the hardness of the material used for the header is between 35 Hv and 80 Hv.

13. (Previously Presented) A heat transfer apparatus comprising flat tubes and the headers according to claim 11.

14. (Currently Amended) A method for the manufacture of a header with one or more slots created by stamping without internal dies or high-pressure internal shaping for a heat transfer apparatus **comprising one or more slots for the insertion of a flat tube, said slots being created by stamping without an internal die or by internal high-pressure formation, wherein the ratio $(D/2s)$ of the tube's outside radius $(D/2)$ to the tube wall thickness (s) is less than 5, the ratio $(D/D1)$ of the tube outside diameter (D) outside of the slot areas to the tube transverse dimension $(D1)$ is between 1.02 and 1.5 in the slot areas, and a mechanical weakening is provided at the places at which the slot or slots are to be made** ~~according to claim 11~~, wherein a flat piece is bent to form a header blank

open along a longitudinal gap and the longitudinal gap is then soldered shut or welded shut, and the slot or slots are put into the header blank after the longitudinal gap is soldered or welded shut.

15. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 14, wherein the solder-plated flat material is used as said flat piece.

16. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 15, wherein the soldering-shut of the longitudinal gap takes place in a single soldering procedure for the manufacture of a corresponding heat transfer apparatus, in which all the rest of the soldered joints are produced for the construction of the heat transfer apparatus.

17. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 14, further wherein a spot heat treatment and/or a mechanical weakening ~~thinning~~ is provided at the points at which the slot or the slots are to be made.